

Comments on N2021-1

May 22, 2021

To the Postal Regulatory Commission:

As a US citizen who believes in and relies on the Postal Service, I am writing in opposition to the proposed changes to the Postal System that would further degrade service and standards.

I believe in this Constitutionally mandated Universal Service and the survival of a public agency the people of this country rely on. The private sector is answerable to no one other than shareholders and can raise rates to any level it believes it can sustain. I know that USPS has been burdened by costs no other government agency carries in terms of pension obligations and an expectation that it turn a profit as if it were indeed a private sector business. But it is not. It is not a business; it is a public service. We do not expect public libraries to turn a profit. We do not expect public schools to turn a profit. We do not expect fire or police departments to turn a profit. They are not businesses. Neither is USPS.

Everyone knows that the pandemic has worsened processing and delivery problems that already existed. Decisions to decommission sorting machines, cut delivery days and times, and otherwise inhibit the successful delivery of mail was motivated by nothing but politics and the desire to privatize USPS. Further cuts to service will only worsen the situation.

The USPS began to struggle financially only when a Republican-led Congress mandated that it pre-fund retirement accounts for decades in the future. Prior to that mandate, the USPS was solvent and operated in the black. Congress can certainly remove the future pension funding requirements, which will allow USPS to again become solvent. There are other proposals offered as well, such as instituting a Postal Banking service.

The 10-year plan that is proposed will create a death spiral. While I personally may have options for paying bills, banking and other necessary communications, many people do not. If you approve this plan, you must acknowledge that you are knowingly killing what is arguably our oldest Constitutional "original" public government agency.
Do not privatize our Postal Service!

Respectfully submitted,

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